July, 1988 caused breaches in the [embankment of Patiala Nadi at several points. The extent of reported damage is as under:—

(i) Population affected .	. 50,000
(ii) No. of human lives lost	. . 7
(iii) No. of cattle heads lest	. 25
(iv) No. of houses damaged	. 3,120
(v) Cropped area affected .	24,864 ha. (paddy)
(vi) Estimated damage to Public utilities	Rs. 500 lakhs •

2. The State Government had taken following relief measures in Patiala:—

(i) No. of people evacuated	. 2,500
(ii) No. of lives saved from drowning	72
(iii) No. of civil and army boats employed	. . . 10 •
(iv) Amount released for relief measures	Rs. 35 lakhs in addition to Rs. 10 lakhs received from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

(v) So far 1827 families have been given relief and Rs 25 97 lakhs disbursed by way of exgratia relief and for repair of houses. Disbursement of relief to other affected families is also expected to be completed during this week.

(vi) The work of plugging the breaches in the Patiala Nadi has been completed.

3. The Secretary, Irrigation and Power Department has been asked by the State Government to make an inquiry into the circumstances with regard to the breaches in the embank ment. The findings of the inquiry is not yet available.

Shortage of pig iron

*53. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whethre it is a fact that there is a big shortage of pig iron in the country and thousands of small and medium undertakings are starved of this raw material and industrial unite; are under-utilised if so, the details thereof;

(b) what is the requirement of the pig iron in the country and its local supply and extent of short fall;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have decided to import pig iron through MMTC, if so, what is the quantity contemplated and at what cost; and

(d) whether the import of pig iron is going to be channelised only through Government agencies of the actual users would be permitted to import the same through their established and registered associations?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTE-DAR) (a) Government has received representations from some consumers, Associations and State Governments regarding the shortage of Pig iron

(b) The demand for pig iron for 1988-89 has been assessed at about 1.67 million tonnes as against the likely production of 1.35 million tonnes.

(c) Yes, Sir. 2,75.000 tonnes at an estimated cost of about Rs. 54 crorcs.

(d) Import of pig iron is canalised through MMTC—a Government aeency. Direct import of pig iron is allowed even at present under REP and Advance licensing provisions.

Import of rice and wheat

*54 SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister